

Pakistan Affairs Mock

Q1. "The world is progressing so rapidly that without requisite advancements in education, not only shall we be left behind others but may be wiped out altogether." Discuss the Issues, Problems, and Solutions of the Education System of Pakistan in Light of the Statement.

→ Answer

1. Introduction

Education is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development and national progress. The world is experiencing rapid global advancements, and education is central in determining a country's ability to compete in the modern world. Despite its importance, Pakistan continues to face a crisis in its education system, which acts as a roadblock in the country's ability to compete internationally.

2. Issues and Problems in Pakistan's Education System

i) Low Public Spending on Education

Pakistan spends approximately 1.77% of its GDP on education as per World Bank (2023). The spending on education is far below the 4-6% recommended by UNESCO. Due to low spending, Pakistan indicates that education is not the priority of the country. Consequently, the education sector of Pakistan lacks basic facilities, has underpaid teachers, and lacks learning resources in schools.

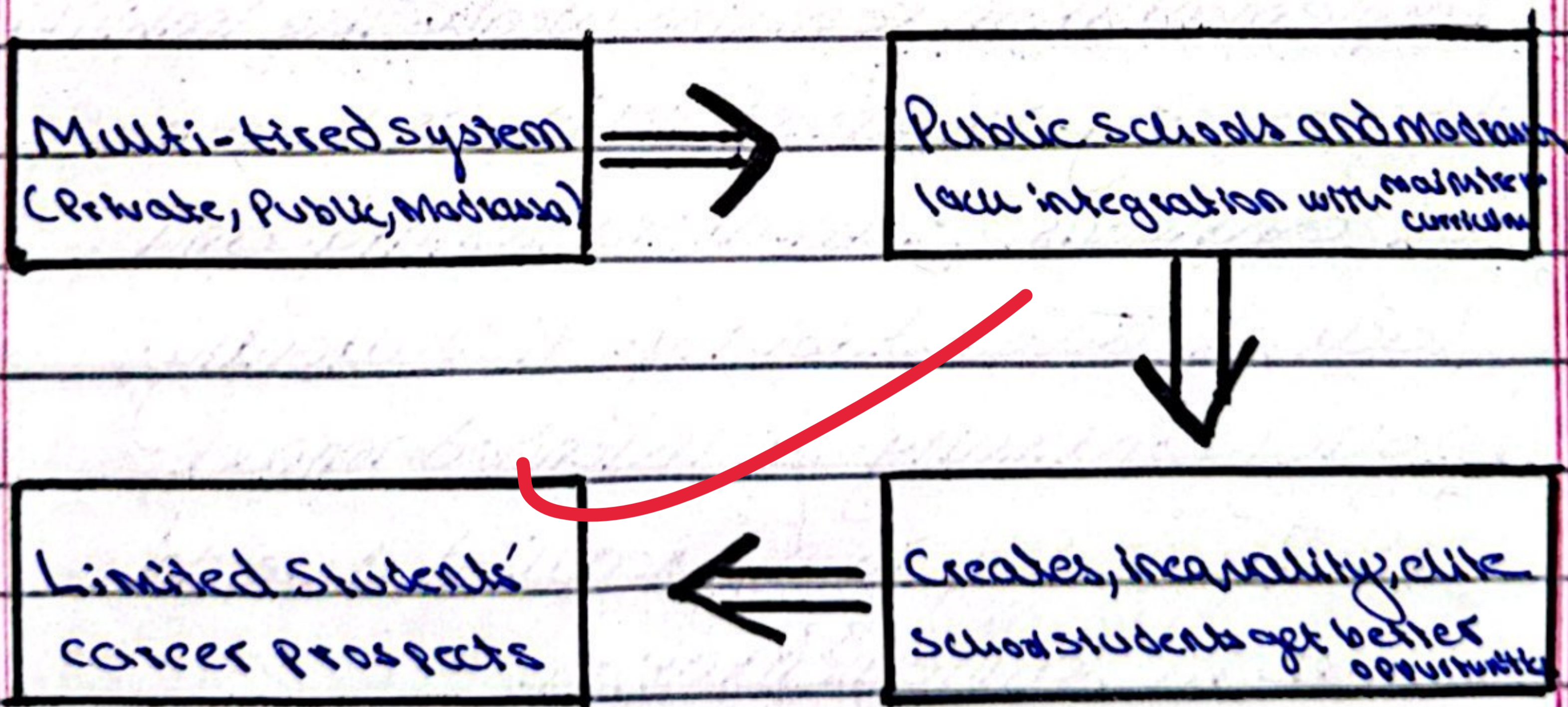
ii) Access and Equity Issues

As per report published by UNICEF in 2023, more than 22.8 million children aged 5-16 remain out of school. This figure is the second-highest globally, indicating serious accessibility issues. Moreover, within enrolled students, gender disparity persists. Only 60% of girls are enrolled in primary schools compared to 78% of boys.

iii) Substandard Quality of Education

Syllabus taught within Pakistani schools is outdated and STEM-integration remains absent. Old-school rote learning teaching method is still widely utilized which is ineffective. Moreover, poor teaching awareness, lack of teacher training, and absenteeism results in low learning outcomes. Thus, students lack basic language comprehension, skills, and analytical ability which are vital in today's world.

iv) Fragmented Educational System



v) Poor Governance and Impact of Poverty

Over 40% schools lack basic facilities and corruption tied with inefficiency in the

education bureaucracy exacerbate the mismanagement. At the same time, 40% of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line, and the mismanagement due to poor governance, negatively impacts them disproportionately. Due to inability of state to provide proper education service to the citizens and rising inflation, Pakistan's school enrollment rates remain low.

vi) Policy Implementation Gap

While Pakistan has developed several education policies, like the National Education Policy (2009), their implementation remains weak. The inability to properly implement policies is because of continuous political instability and lack of accountability. Resultantly, policy continuity or intended impact of the policy is not realised due to gaps in implementation.

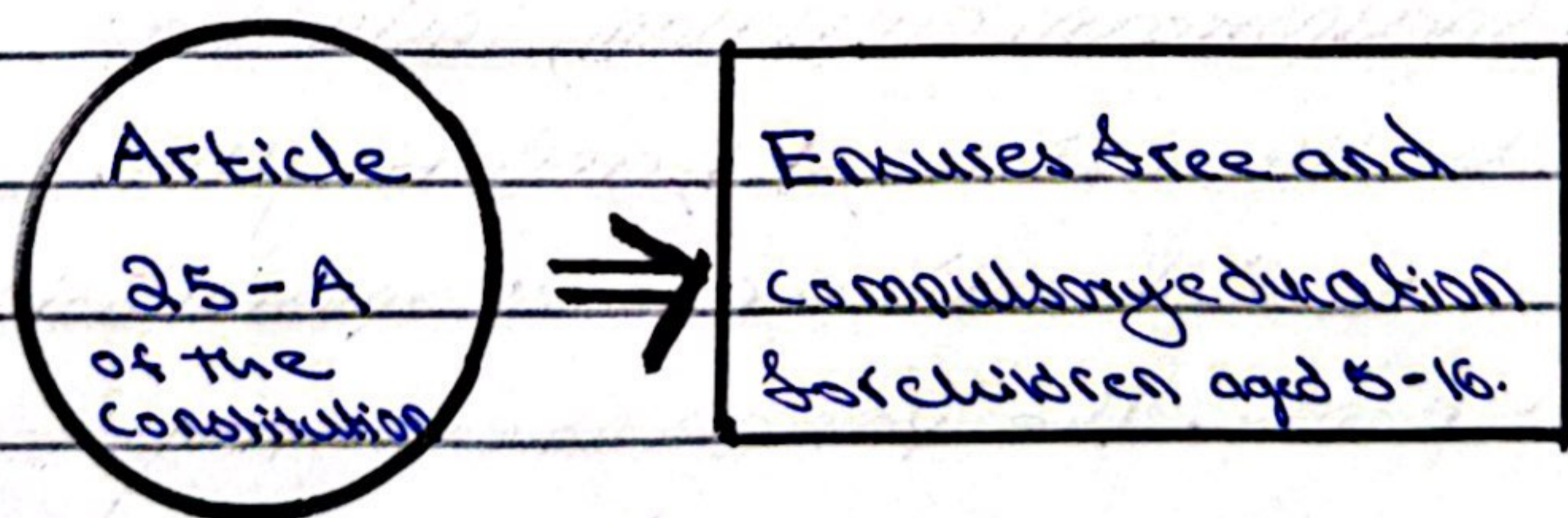
3. Solution to the Education Crisis in Pakistan

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i) Increase Public Spending on Education

Education expenditure should be increased to 4% of GDP to 4.5%. The increased funds should be utilized to improve infrastructure, resources, and teacher salaries. The funds should be distributed equitably to reduce regional disparities. Increased spending would not improve the quality of education but would also ensure that the institutes are well-equipped to handle high rates of enrollments.

ii) Implement Universal Access to Education



The basic right provided by Pakistan Constitution of 1973 should be implemented. Implementation should be done through targeted enrollment drives in marginalized areas with special incentives for girls education.

iii) Improving Quality of Education and Leveraging Technology

- Revamp Curriculum with STEM Integration and Focus on critical thinking
- Open efficient vocational training institutions
- Enhance teacher training programs through public-private partnerships
- Promote digital literacy
- Implement online learning platforms to ensure proper accessibility to education.

iv) Streamline the Education System

Integrate madrasah education with mainstream curriculum, including subjects like science, IT, and English. This would broaden career opportunities for students. The process of ensuring this should be through formulation of a unified education policy that integrates public, private, and madrasah educational institutes, and reduces inequalities between them.

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v) Address Regional Disparities and Poverty's impact

Special education programs for underdeveloped regions like Balochistan and rural Sindh. Local communities should be involved to address attendance issue to reduce dropouts and increase enrollment. Children unable to attain education due to financial conditions should be provided incentive of conditional cash transfer program by utilizing BISP infrastructure.

vi) Policy Implementation and Monitoring

A national task force should be constituted to solve national education emergency. The taskforce should oversee the implementation of policies. Measurable targets for literacy, enrollment, and quality improvements should be set. Regular progress reviews through third-party validation should be conducted to ensure impartial impact assessment.

4. Conclusion

The challenges facing Pakistan's education system are multifaceted, ranging from low funding and regional disparities to outdated curriculum and poor governance. These issues should be addressed through targeted reforms, which can transform Pakistan's education system into a driver of socio-economic development. A well-educated population is critical not only for competing globally but also for ensuring national prosperity.

Q2. Critically evaluate how the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the Pakistan will affect the balance of power between various pillars of the State.

Answer

1. Introduction

The Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, was passed on 21st October 2017. The

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amendment introduced changes to the judicial appointment process, particularly focused on the selection of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). The amendment has redressed the balance of power among the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Although the amendment increased democratic oversight and parliamentary superiority, concerns over politicisation of judiciary have been raised.

2. Key Features of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment (2024)

i) Changes to The Appointment of The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP)

Since the 18th Amendment (2001), the most senior judge of the Supreme Court automatically became the Chief Justice. However, under the 26th Amendment, a Special Parliamentary Committee has been established which would nominate the Chief Justice from among the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court, with a fixed term of three years for the CJP.

ii) Enhanced Role of Parliament in Judicial Appointments

The Parliamentary committee has been bestowed with the power of appointing CJP and judges. The committee comprises members from both the government and opposition parties and is responsible for overseeing the nomination process. This increases legislative influence over the judiciary.

iii) Transparency and Accountability Provisions

The amendment mandates public disclosure of judicial and executive financial assets. This provision focuses on enhancing transparency to reduce corruption and undue influence.

iv) Changes in the Composition of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP)

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has been expanded to include more representatives from the executive

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and legislature. The new composition reduces the dominance of senior judges in judicial appointment process.

JCP New Composition

- CJP as Chairman of JCP
- 3 senior most justices of SCP
- Senior most justice of Constitutional Bench
- Federal Minister for Law
- 2 Members from National Assembly
- 2 Members from the Senate
- 1 Advocate nominated by Punjab Bar Council for two years
- 1 Woman/Non-Muslim nominated by Speaker of National Assembly

3 Implications of 26th Amendment for the Balance of Power

i) Legislature

Attempt these parts in detail by giving self explanatory subheadings

With an enhanced role in judicial appointments, the legislature has strengthened democratic oversight role. This allows the parliament to gain significant influence over the judiciary, ensuring democratic

values are followed. However, increased legislative control may lead to potential politicisation of the judiciary, which may undermine judiciary's impartiality.

ii) Executive

Increased involvement of the parliament reduces the occurrence of unilateral executive influence over judicial appointments. The limitation allows the promotion of a balanced governance structure. However, this has also tasked the executive to coordinate and collaborate more closely with the legislature in judicial matters. Provided the increased need of consensus, political gridlocks could regularly occur.

iii) Judiciary

Critics of the 26th Amendment argue that increased role of legislature and executive in judicial appointments could potentially undermine judiciary's ability to function independently. However, proponents believe that the enhanced accountability provided through the amendment would allow

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The judiciary to align with democratic values and the judicial appointments would be subjected to broader scrutiny.

iv) Impact on Federal-Provincial Relations

The amendment's provisions for judicial appointment could spark tensions if the provincial interests are not adequately represented in the nomination process. The JCP would constitute of 8/13 non-judicial appointments. If equitable representation within the JCP is overlooked, it could increase discontent among provinces leading to strained Federal-Provincial relations.

v) Broader Democratic Implications

Short Term

• While aiming to democratize the judiciary, risk of eroding public trust provided current political climate exists.

Long Term

• Formalising process for judicial appointment can strengthen constitutional governance.

4. Critical Evaluation of the 26th Amendment

i) Strengths of the Amendments

Democratic Oversight

Fixed Tenure of CJP

Transparency Measures

• Involving parliament in judicial appointments aligns with democratic principles.

• 3-year term enhances stability in judicial leadership.

• Asset disclosures promotes accountability and reduces corruption.

ii) Challenges and Risks of The Amendment

Judicial Politicisation
• Legislative involvement may compromise the judiciary's independence, leading to potential bias in key rulings.

Implementation Challenges
• Effective enforcement of the provisions to achieve intended results requires significant administrative reform.

5. Conclusion

The twenty-sixth amendment presents a significant shift in Pakistan's Constitutional framework, enhancing parliamentary oversight through a redefined judiciary's role. The emphasis on transparency and democratic accountability with efforts to restrict judicial overreach, is a step in the right direction. However, the potential to politicise the judiciary that could limit judiciary's independence should be closely observed. The success of the amendment depends on effective implementation, impartial processes, and safeguarding judicial integrity to strengthen Pakistan's democratic governance with a balance of power among state's pillars.

Q3. Characterised by Drift, Pakistan's Foreign Policy Appears to be Rudderless. It necessitates Clarity and Coherence to meet complex Regional and International Challenges to Respond to The Fast-Moving Global Developments. Discuss.

Answer

1. Introduction

Foreign policy of a country defines a nation's interactions with the global community. It is usually driven by national interests and strategic goals. Pakistan's foreign policy is often criticized for lacking clarity, coherence, and direction. Pakistan has faced serious challenges due to its foreign policy being reactive in nature with a focus on short-term goals. As the world is evolving, rapid geopolitical shifts necessitate Pakistan's foreign policy to transition towards a proactive strategic framework which addresses regional and global challenges faced by the country.

2. Key Issues in Pakistan's Foreign Policy

Use elaborate, self-explanatory and relevant headings

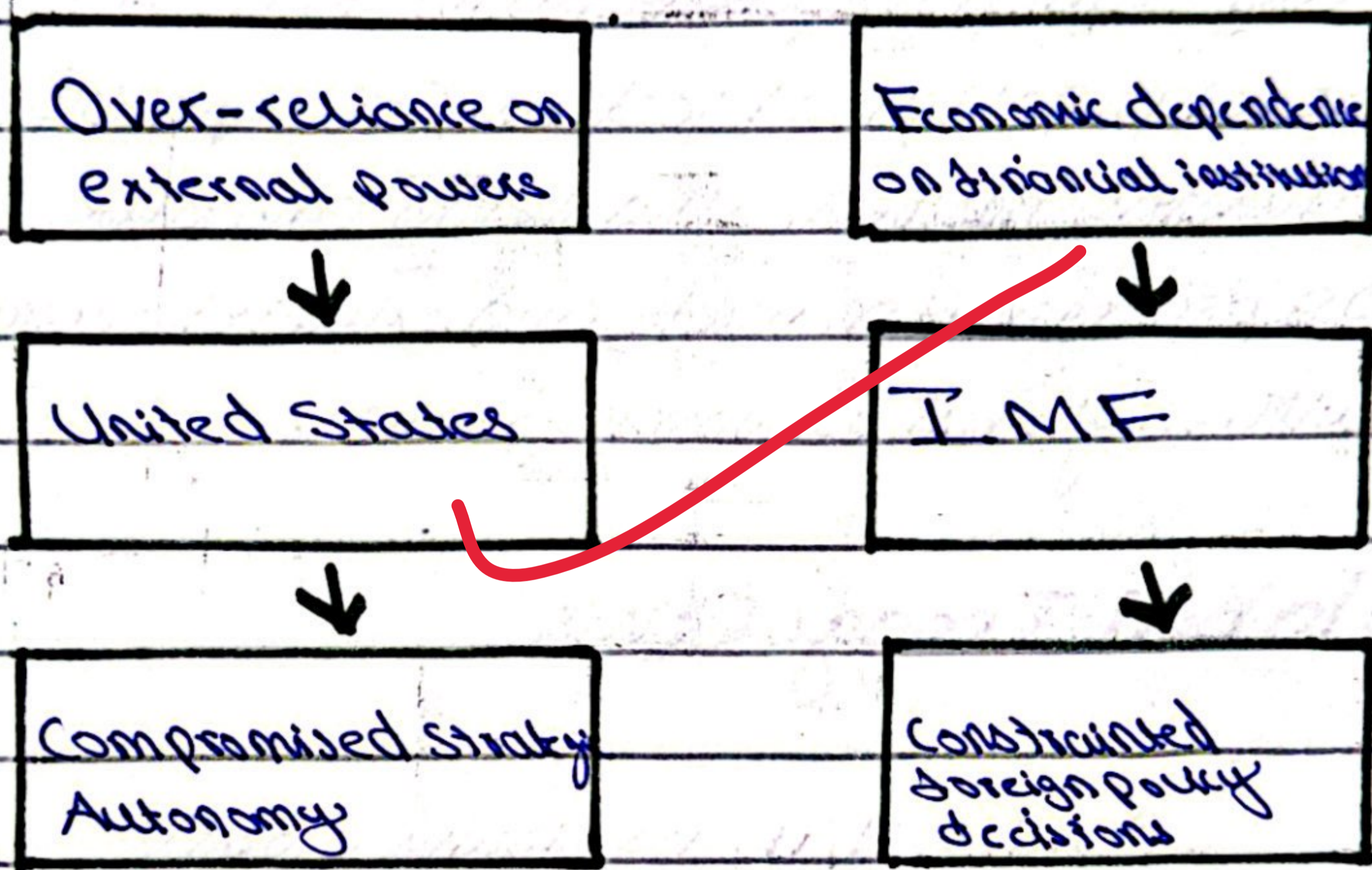
i) Reactive Approach

Historically, Pakistan has adopted a reactive foreign policy, responding to crisis rather than focusing on a long-term strategy. The lack of foresight

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is the reason behind lack of coherence within the country's foreign policy. As a result, Pakistan has consistently remained at a disadvantage in regional and global diplomacy.

ii) Dependency Syndrome



iii) Geopolitical Imbalance

Pakistan's foreign policy is overly focused on relations with India. As a result, Pakistan dedicates less attention to other regions and global trends. It is the major reason why Pakistan has limited engagement with Africa, South America, and East Asia.

iv) Neglected Focus on Geoeconomics

Pakistan's foreign policy drivers have always been security-oriented. Pakistan has been unable to adapt to the global shift from geopolitics ^{to} geoeconomics. The reason behind this is Pakistan's insufficient focus on building trade and economic partnerships to achieve foreign policy objectives. Consequently, Pakistan has been unable to capitalise on emerging markets and exhibit influence within global economic forums.

v) Global Image Crisis

Since 9/11, Pakistan's global image has often been associated with terrorism. Moreover, continuous political instability, military dominance, and economic mismanagement have pushed Pakistan to a weak international position. Pakistan's ineffective diplomacy due to unclear foreign policy has failed to counter the negative narratives, illustrating failure.

3. Regional and International Challenges For Pakistan

i) Regional Challenges

INDIA

- Escalating tensions over Kashmir since revocation of Article 370
- Border skirmishes at regular basis
- Emerging hydro-politics threatens Pakistan's food security

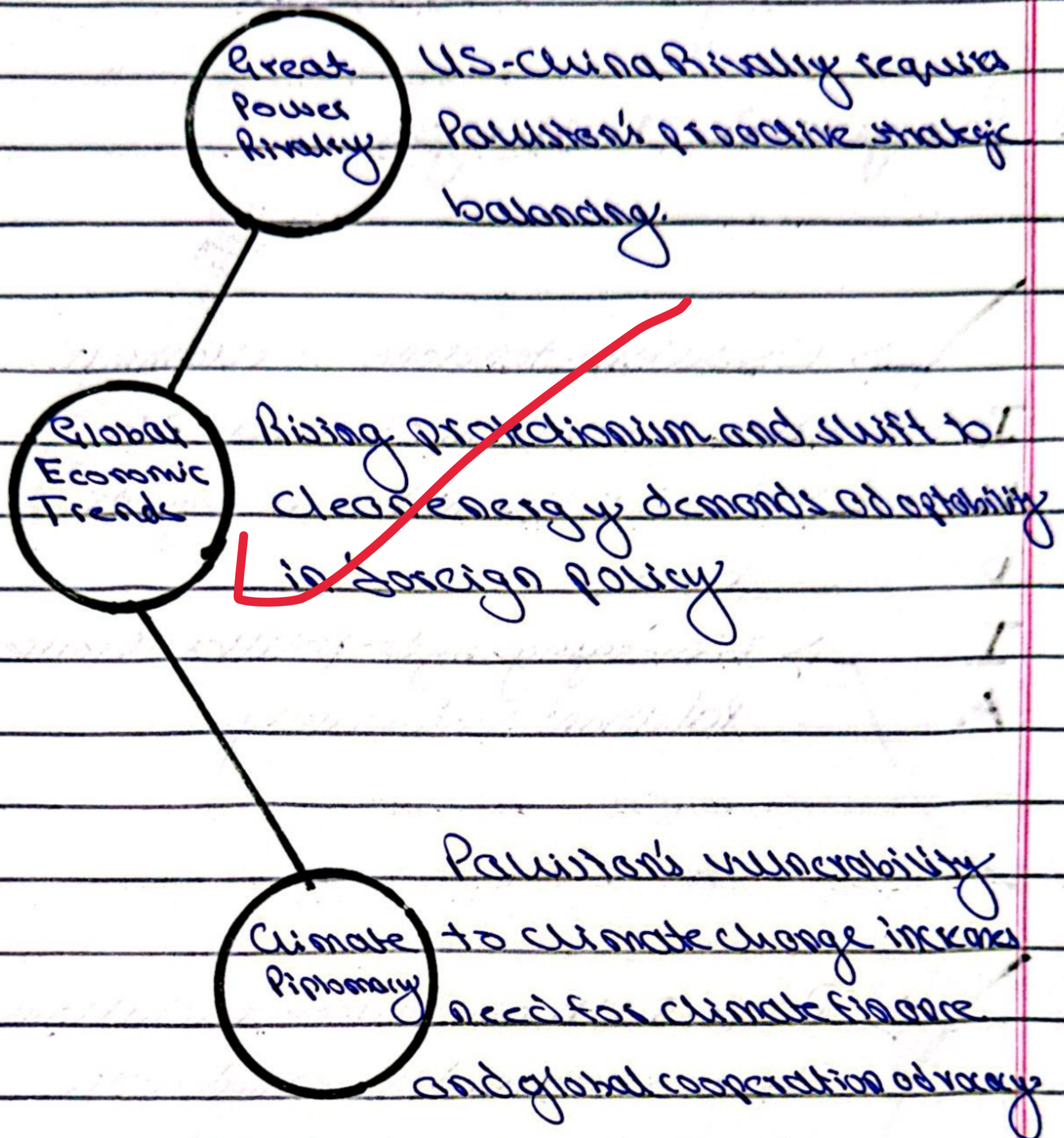
Afghanistan

- Post-Taliban takeover relations have remained strained with ineffective negotiations
- Serious border security challenges for Pakistan and rise in terrorism
- Managing refugee inflows and outflows presents a problematic picture.

CHINA

- Pakistan's economic dependency on China through CPEC
- Balancing relations with China and U.S to ensure neutral stance in the region
- Securing China within Pakistan

ii) International Challenges



4. Roadmap for a Clear and Coherent Pakistan's Foreign Policy

i) Adopting a Proactive Approach

Transition from a crisis-driven policy to a strategic, ^{and} well-planned approach. Anticipation of global trends and emerging challenges that should be prioritised. This should be achieved

Establishment of a long-term vision document with clear objectives and coherent policymaking.

Add and highlight references against these arguments

ii) Prioritise Regional Engagement

Focus should be upon normalising relations with India through backchannel diplomacy with a long-term objective of creating a mutually beneficial economic interdependent relation. Ties with Afghanistan should be improved by directly addressing on-going problems with a long-term vision of accessing Central Asia to meet future energy needs.

iii) Enhance Economic Diplomacy

Shift focus from only security objectives and military alliances to economic partnerships. Active engagement with emerging economies should be prioritised. Trade relations with Africa, ASEAN, and Latin America should be developed to stimulate economic growth and to diversify economic dependencies.

iv) Improve Pakistan's Global Image

A global narrative-building campaign which counters negative perceptions should be launched. Pakistan's embassies should build upon the positive side of the country, showcasing culture, history, and achievements. Moreover, Pakistan's contribution to UN peacekeeping forces, counterterrorism during war on terror, and climate change initiatives should be highlighted.

v) Leverage Climate Diplomacy

Pakistan should utilize international forums like United Nations to advocate for global action on Pakistan. Recently, at the COP29, \$300bn climate finance has been pledged by the developed world for vulnerable developing nations. Pakistan should emphasize its vulnerability and highlight its need for finance. Moreover, Pakistan should position itself as a leader in renewable energy adoption within South Asia.

5. Conclusion

Pakistan's foreign policy, characterised by drift and ambiguity, has reduced its ability to address contemporary challenges. Pakistan needs to adopt a proactive, coherent, and inclusive foreign policy to place itself as an important player in the changing global order. Through prioritising economic diplomacy, strengthening regional ties, and utilising its geographical location for economic benefits, Pakistan can transform its foreign policy into a tool for national growth and stability.

Q4: New Wave of Terrorism Exposes Pakistan's Policy Failures to Combat the Menace. Evaluate

1. Introduction

Terrorism remains one of the most critical challenges for Pakistan. It has undermined national security, economic stability, and social harmony. Despite multiple counterterrorism efforts, a resurgence of terrorist activities has been observed in recent years. The resurgence has exposed

gaps in the state's strategy and execution. Pakistan would need to undertake a long-term plan which addresses the root causes of terrorism, to achieve long-lasting peace.

2. Policy Failures in Combating Terrorism

i) Weak Implementation of The National Action Plan (NAP)

National Action Plan was adopted in July; however, its implementation remains partial. The state has not been able to implement madrasa reforms or control hate speech. Moreover, political polarisation has led to reduced coordination among federal and provincial governments, negatively impacting progress. The incomplete implementation of NAP has allowed extremist ideologies to persist, providing a breeding ground for terrorism.

ii) Inadequate Intelligence Coordination

Lack of coordination among

intelligence agencies results in missed opportunities in preempting attacks. Failure to gather intelligence timely, and weak analysis allows terrorist groups to operate more aggressively. Recent terrorist attacks have indicated intelligence gaps which have been exploited by groups to plan and execute attacks.

iii) Reactive Rather Than Proactive Approach

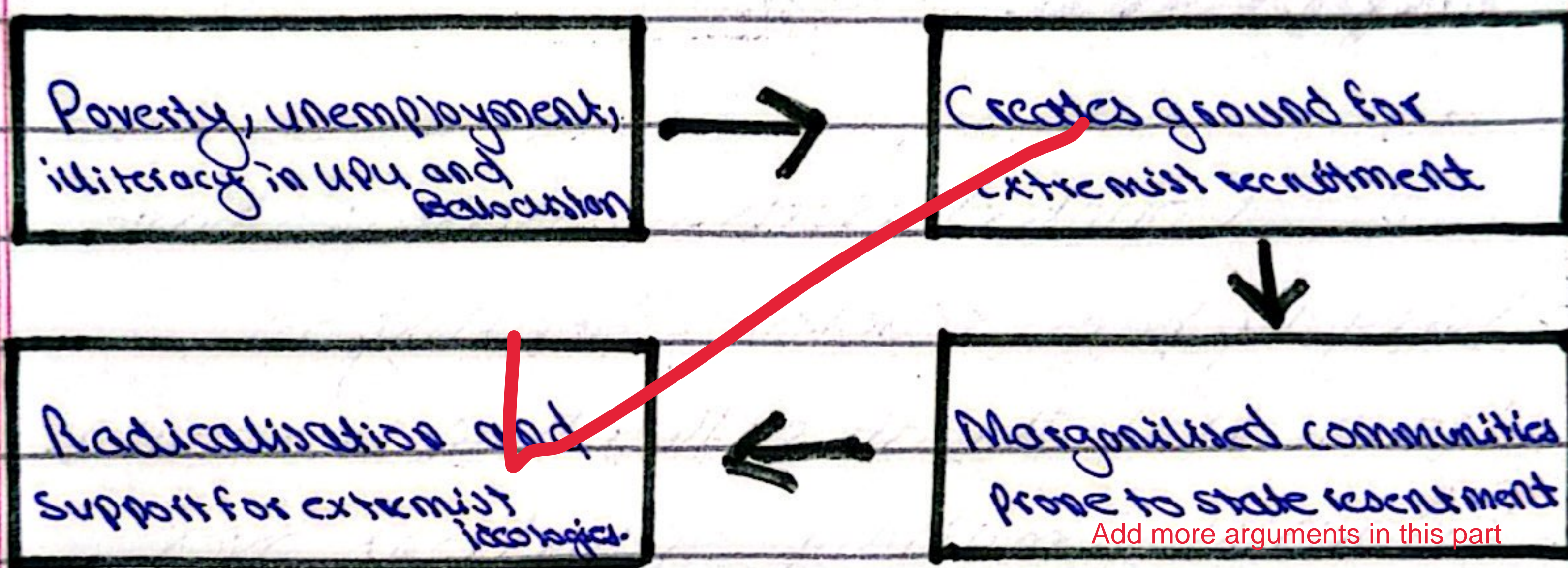
Counterterrorism strategies have largely been reactive, focusing on immediate threats rather than root causes. Prioritising military operations over long-term measures such as deradicalisation and community engagement, reflects a short-term vision. Delayed responses to emerging threats has allowed terrorist groups like Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to regroup with greater strength.

iv) Failure to Control Terrorism Linked Financing

Pakistan was removed from FATF grey list in 2022. However,

Pakistan has been unable to curb terror financing conducted through informal channels. Continued financing has strengthened terrorist networks, allowed external players to influence terrorism within Pakistan, and helped terrorist groups sustain their operations.

v) Neglect of Socio-Economic Drivers



3. Steps to Address the Menace

i) Comprehensive Implementation of NAP

Completely implement NAP, including madrasa reforms, countering hate speech, and dismantling extremist networks. A dedicated task force should be established to monitor progress of NAP implementation and to ensure

Accountability.

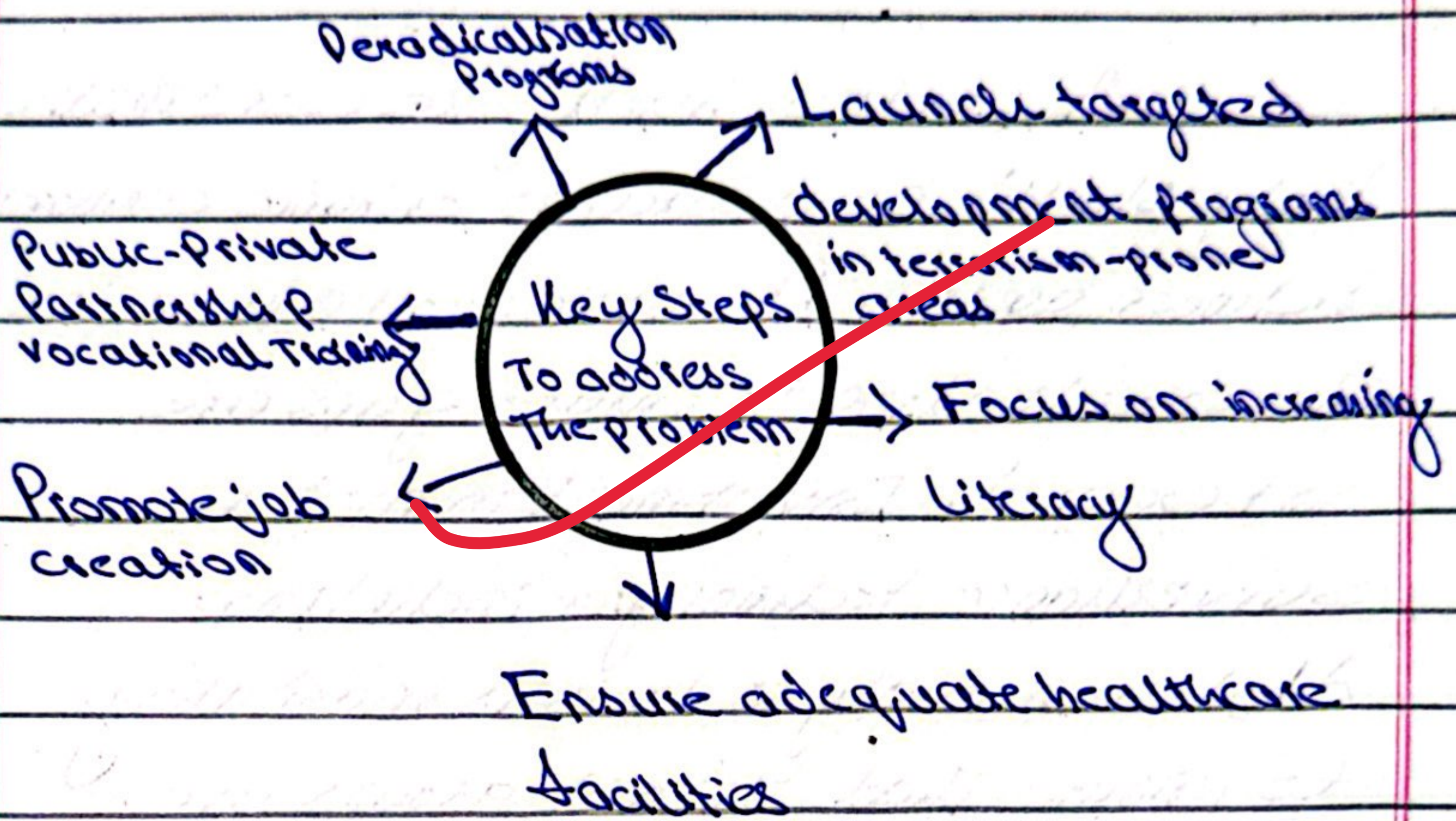
ii) Increase Intelligence Coordination

A central intelligence coordination body should be created to enhance collaboration between agencies. The state should promote the coordination to ensure gaps are not exposed. Investment in modern surveillance technologies including AI-driven analysis tools is mandatory to ensure that terrorist groups are closely monitored and potential attacks are anticipated in a timely manner.

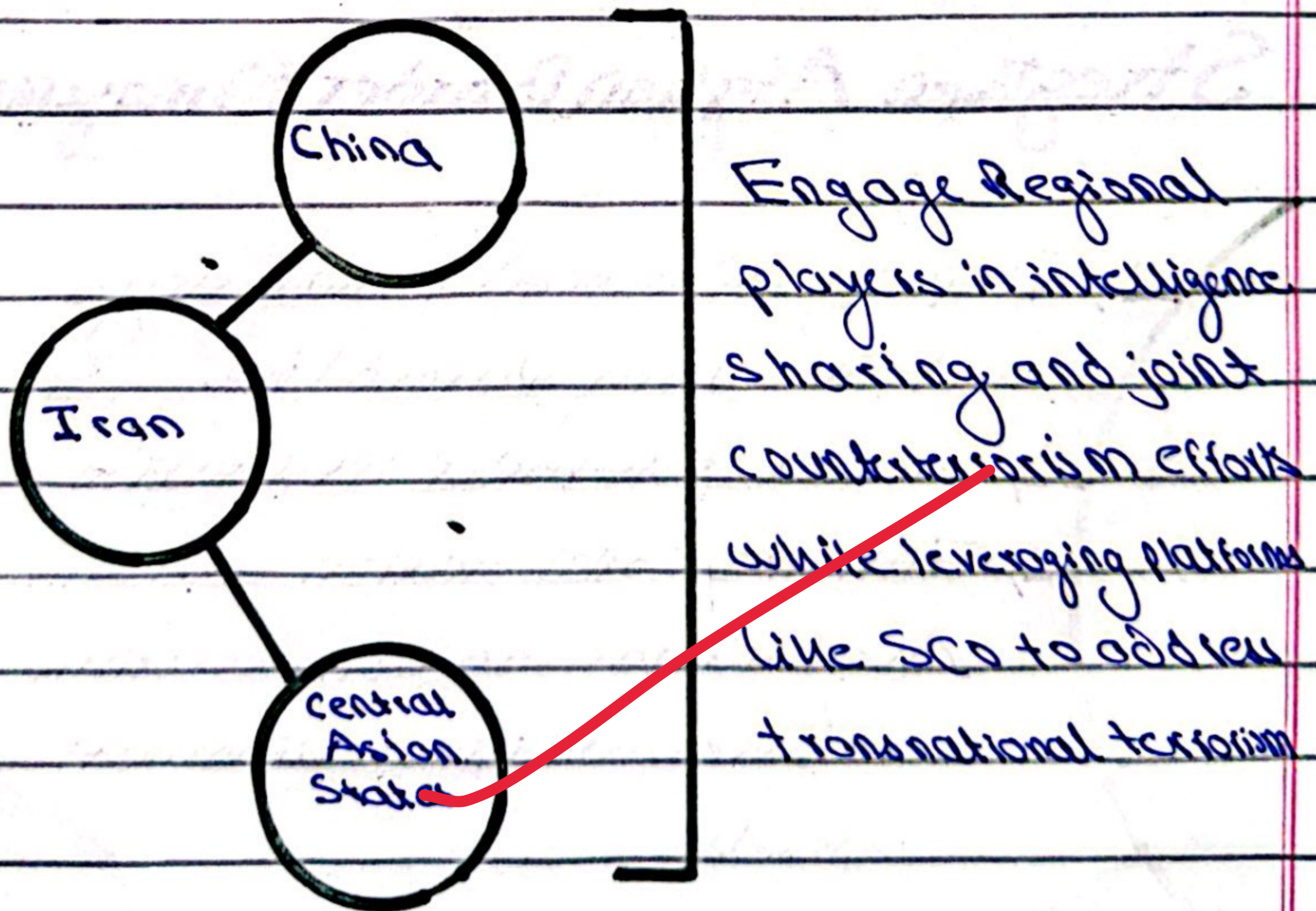
iii) Strengthen Afghan Border Management

- Deploy advanced monitoring systems along Durand Line.
- Prevent cross-border infiltration
- Enhance collaboration with Afghanistan on counterterrorism measures utilising diplomatic channels.
- Effectively manage refugee situation through coordinated approach

iv) Address Underlying Socio-Economic Drivers



v) Focus on Regional Cooperation



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4. Conclusion

The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan highlights policy shortcomings which have weakened the country's ability to deal with the menace. A comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of extremism while strengthening institutional capabilities with regional cooperation is essential. By focusing on long-term measures such as socio-economic reforms, deradicalisation, and enhanced intelligence capabilities, Pakistan can counter current tide of terrorism and ensure lasting peace.